

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2541 without my signature.

Existing law allows courts to direct most low-level, non-violent drug offenders to diversion or participation in a deferred entry of judgment program. This bill seeks to expand these opportunities to higher-level drug dealers. Although the state should seek to make meaningful rehabilitation a reality for a person convicted of a drug offense, this rehabilitation should be concurrent with or subsequent to the imposition of his or her rightful sentence. This bill would undermine the state's drug laws and thereby place the public's safety in jeopardy.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger